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Colorado NRCS Allocates Money to Lower Arkansas River Watershed for Resource Recovery

La Junta, CO - The Colorado USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated \$500,000 in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) dollars to the Lower Arkansas River Watershed for resource recovery.

“This Colorado initiative is aimed at the natural resources in the Lower Arkansas Watershed that have been affected by the weather extremes of this past winter and spring,” says John Knapp, NRCS Area Conservationist, La Junta, CO.

The three critical resource issues that will be addressed are soil erosion, rangeland, and water quality/quantity. Targeted key practices will be prescribed grazing, fencing, water development, residue management, irrigation water management, and associated practices to support these key resource issues.

The counties in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed affected by this are Crowley, Otero, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Baca, and parts of Lincoln, Pueblo, and Las Animas.

EQIP is a cost-share program, established in 1997, that provides financial assistance for conservation systems such as animal waste management facilities, irrigation system improvements, fencing and water supply development for improved grazing management, riparian protection, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS field office. Information on EQIP and other NRCS programs in Colorado can be found by visiting the web at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.

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